

**BLACK
WOMEN
ORGANIZED
FOR ACTION**

MAILING ADDRESS: P. O. BOX 15072
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94115

October 4, 1974

MEMORANDUM TO:

Miranda Slade	Patricia Sadler	Eve Williams
Cora Lemmon	Carol and Charles Lawrence	Anne Thurman Chiarenza
Alma Jackson	Bill Jones	Frankie Jacobs
Olga Baxt	Dorothy Cox	Idaree Westbrook
Rev. A. Cecil Williams	Iris Cox	Claudine Harper
Ben James, Esq.	Aileen Hernandez	Doris Ward
	Joan Brann	

FROM: Naomi T. Gray

SUBJECT: National Defense Committee for Elayne Jones

As many of you know, Black Women Organized for Action has taken the leadership in the fight to support Elayne Jones in her decision, as an accomplished musician with the San Francisco Symphony, not to audition for her first chair position after being denied tenure by the Players Committee of the Symphony. Auditions for the tympanist position with the Symphony is now being advertised.

Many of you have already indicated that you are supportive of Ms. Jones and are interested in working as a volunteer and/or lending your name and financial support to her legal fight. In addition, we will need to raise funds to pay lawyer's fees and to pay for backup support of volunteers who are working on this committee.

A small group has been meeting to try to strategize and formulize a national thrust on Elayne's behalf and have identified the following issues which must be confronted immediately:

1. Research on racism and sexism in the Symphony Orchestra and in the union.
2. Research on tax moneys spent on the Symphony.
3. Carry ads for the tympanist vacancy and the audition in order to alert other musicians that Elayne Jones does have legal action pending.

The next meeting of the Elayne Jones Defense Committee will be held on October 8 at 8:00 P.M. at the Pacific Psychotherapy Institute, 3576 Sacramento, San Francisco. Any of you who are able to attend this meeting and would like to "get involved" please make your presence known. At that time, Ms. Jones' lawyer, Allan Brodsky and Anne Bloomfield will discuss both

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the legal and fund-raising aspects. Miranda Slade, BWOA representative, will report on this group's plans for future support of Elayne Jones.

Attached for your information is the fact sheet information which BWOA has distributed widely in its informational pickets and to the newspapers about the struggle of this talented and creative Black woman.

If you have suggestions of others who would like to lend their names in publicity and fund-raising materials, please call either Miranda Slade at 431-2519 or me at 387-5440.

Enclosure: 1
NTG/v

**"SENSATIONAL!
ABSOLUTELY SENSATIONAL!"**
—Heuwell Tircuit, San Francisco Chronicle

ELAYNE JONES

Elayne Jones, principal tympanist with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra also held that position with Leopold Stokowski's American Symphony Orchestra for ten seasons and with Arthur Fiedler's World Symphony in 1971.

"Elayne Jones, tympanist in the American Symphony, is a very great artist. I know the tympani players in other countries and some of them are very great but she is equally great. She is one of the greatest in the whole world for her instrument, for technique, but particularly for imagination because tympani parts on the paper sometimes look very dry but that's only on paper. She has to make it sound, she has to make it suggest certain mysterious things or very powerful things and she does that wonderfully."

—Leopold Stokowski

Elayne Jones has presented over 300 solo lecture-demonstrations of percussion instruments in schools and colleges. So successful were these educational programs that in 1965 NET produced a half hour TV special featuring her and entitled, "A Day in the Life of a Musician".

Following her graduation from the New York City High School of Music and Art, Miss Jones received two scholarships to the Juilliard School of Music where she studied with famed Saul Goodman then tympanist with the New York Philharmonic.



Secrecy & the Symphony:

A San Francisco Watergate??

BLACK WOMEN ORGANIZED FOR ACTION believes in the democratic process---
in the right of the people TO KNOW.

ELAYNE JONES, nationally known, award-winning tympanist with the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, has been denied tenure by the Players' Committee of the Orchestra. We ask---

● W H Y

▲ was ELAYNE JONES denied tenure without a hearing or explanation?
Racism? Sexism?? Competency as an artist???

● W H O

▲ is the Players' Committee who sat in judgment? White males? White females? Minority females? Minority males?

● W H A T

▲ makes the Players' Committee competent to judge another artist's competence? What criteria are used?

● W H O

▲ sets policy for the Symphony and how do they arrive at their decisions?

● W H Y

▲ the secrecy regarding the decision not to grant ELAYNE JONES tenure?

BLACK WOMEN ORGANIZED FOR ACTION calls on all fair-minded, concerned citizens and supporters of the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra to join with us in demanding a public hearing on the matter of tenure for ELAYNE JONES.

In 1972-1973, the Symphony received \$210,000 in hotel tax funds from the City and County of San Francisco. BLACK WOMEN ORGANIZED FOR ACTION urges that no further tax funds be expended with the Symphony until this issue is resolved. We urge the National Endowment for the Arts to inquire into the ELAYNE JONES tenure issue and, if discrimination was a factor in the decision to deny tenure, to withhold further funding of the Symphony.

BLACK WOMEN ORGANIZED FOR ACTION urges those who wish to correct this injustice to a great and talented artist to donate to her legal fight and send letters to the Symphony Association, the Symphony Foundation, Conductor Seiji Ozawa, and others with the power to act.

BLACK WOMEN ORGANIZED FOR ACTION is an organization of 300 Black women in the San Francisco Bay Area who are committed to the struggle of Black people for identity and involvement in decisions which affect our lives.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Naomi Gray, 387-5440 or Eleanor Spikes, 387-4221
Contributions to the ELAYNE JONES TENURE FUND may be sent to:
BLACK WOMEN ORGANIZED FOR ACTION, P.O. Box 15072, San Francisco, Ca. 94115